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the family also. As Mr. Meehan remarks in the same number of the BULLETIN, this lawless trait of the humble-bee may be easily observed. It is an acquired habit, and one that has not yet reached its fullest development, for, while some species of flowers are invariably punctured, others, which are even more difficult of access, are approached in the legitimate manner and are never mutilated. In some localities, hardly an individual of *Gerardia integrifolia* will escape being punctured, and always, so far as I have observed, in the same relative portion of the corolla. In both cases, too, the corolla is bored before its lobes have been unfolded; yet not all the bees seem to understand this, for while by far the greatest numbers fly at once to the puncture made by some previous visitor, others will visit every flower in the regular manner, showing that some understand the operation while others do not. Again, although the *Gerardia* is commonly punctured, it has a comparatively open and accessible corolla, and, on the other hand, the corolla of *Linaria vulgaris*, which is thoroughly closed, is, I believe, never punctured, though the bees visit it in numbers and are forced to no slight exertion to reach its interior.

To me the interpretation of these facts is that while there is the appearance of a purpose in the act, yet it is in the main a blind operation on the part of the bees, and, in any event, they fail to derive the greatest possible benefit from their work, when they persist in boring an open corolla and approach a closed one in the laborious manner which its peculiar mechanism demands.

Mountainville, N. Y.

WINTHROP E. STONE.

Dicentra Punctured by Humble-Bees.—In the last number of the BULLETIN, (p. 55) Prof. W. Whitman Bailey, of Rhode Island, says: "I find that in my garden the flowers of *Dicentra Cucullaria* are systematically punctured by humble-bees; I have watched them in the process. Has this been noticed when the plants are growing wild? It sadly interferes with the very neat mechanism for cross-fertilization."

Several years ago Dr. A. K. Fisher called my attention to the fact that humble-bees were in the habit of obtaining honey from this species by biting through the base of the corolla; and I have since observed that, along the borders of the Adirondack region, in Northeastern New York, it is the exception to find a mature flower of either *Dicentra Cucullaria* or *D. Canadensis* that has not been thus punctured. Whatever be its theoretical bearings upon the fertilization of these plants, the fact remains that both species still thrive here, growing abundantly and in luxuriance.

Locust Grove, New York.

C. HART MERRIAM.

Dicentra Punctured by Humble-Bees.—In reading Prof. Bailey's note in the May BULLETIN on the perforation of the flowers of *Dicentra Cucullaria* by humble-bees, I am reminded that the late Mr. Leggett once noted a similar circumstance in plants sent to him from Lewis Co., N. Y. For the benefit of those who are not fortunate enough to possess a complete set of the BULLETIN, I make the following extract from Mr. Leggett's note.* "C. went to the woods

* Extract from a letter sent to Mr. L. from Lewis Co., BULLETIN, iii., 33.